Trump pre-paid mobile service

768. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATIONTECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MahanagarTelephone Nigam Limited has launched a trump pre-paid mobile service from 15th January, 2002 in Delhi and Mumbai;

(b) if so, whether lower tariff set by MTNL has been welcomed by public in both the cities;

(c) whether this has forced the private companies to lower the charges; and

(d) if so, to what extent MTNL has achieved success in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAP AN SIKDAR): (a)Yes, Sir. MTNL had launched its Trump prepaid mobile service from 14th January, 2002 in Delhi and Mumbai.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Trump pre-paid service of MTNL has so far raised a customer base of 16,000 in Delhi and 9,200 in Mumbai since its launch on 14.1.2002.

Out-dated Mobile Technology

769. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact the V 5.2 is an out-dated mobile technology and is expensive to set up;

(b) whether there are other alternative modem technologies available to limit mobility in India, and if so, the reasons for insisting on V 5.2 technology; and

(c) the collection through revenue sharing and the amount kept in universal service obligation fund for funding of VPT and by when the allocation is likely to commence so as to benefit the basic telephone services provided to the masses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRITAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Technological improvement in Access Network Protocol is a continuous process and therefore improved versions are also permitted for limited mobility. The cost of the network depends upon various factors.

(c) The total collection of Licence Fee as Revenue Share upto 31.01.2002 is Rs. 1394.72 crores. 5% of the Adjusted Gross Revenue is to be charged as Universal Service Levy from all Telecom carriers or operators, excluding pure value added service providers such as Internet Service Providers, Voice Mail Service Providers, etc. and be credited to a Universal Service Fund. The Universal Service Obligation Support Policy will be implemented from 01.04.2002 and the allocations shall commence from the Financial Year 2002-2003.

L T. Sales

770. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATIONTECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem
captioned Red tape slows down Public Sector Information Technology sales which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 4th February, 2002;

(b) whether Information Technology sales have also suffered more at the hands of cumbersome purchase procedures than lack of demand as alleged by the President of IDC India apart from plagued tendering system where cost-consideration override technical ones; and

(c) if so, what was IT spending/sales in 2000-01 and in what manner Government propose to increase take-off in this sector in 2002-03 for FT boom in the days ahead?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATIONTECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN)(a)Yes,&r.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.